JOAQUIN CASTRO
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

MEMBER-ELECT

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2019

John V. Kelly, Acting Inspector General Office of Inspector General Department of Homeland Security 245 Murray Lane SW Washington, DC 20528

Christopher Wray, FBI Director FBI Headquarters 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Acting Inspector General Kelly and Director Christopher Wray,

We write to you to request a thorough investigation into the disconcerting claims from former Trump Organization employees that the Trump Organization violated both civil and criminal law by recruiting, employing and exploiting undocumented workers. Further, it is critical that the victims and witnesses of the alleged criminal and civil violations be protected as material witnesses and victims. Any enforcement action by the Department of Homeland Security against these employees could be an obstruction of justice.

Many of the Trump Organization employees have stepped forward to recount how the Trump Organization setup a pipeline to systematically obtain cheap immigrant labor and hired undocumented immigrants. In fact, some of the undocumented workers have stated that the Trump Organization helped them procure the fraudulent documents. Further, many of these workers have described a hostile work environment, including a culture of coercion, mistreatment, and instances of physical abuse.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) met with several of these workers and their lawyer on March 7, 2019 and had an opportunity to directly ask questions to get more details about the allegations regarding the Trump Organization. We find it alarming that despite multiple news articles, reports, and statements by former workers, and even Congressional requests from Senator Menendez and Congressman Grijalva for an investigation there currently does not seem to be any criminal or civil investigations into the Trump Organization.

We continue to hear that the number of formerly undocumented Trump Organization workers is higher than the 30 individuals reported and that many are too scared to step forward. This is clear evidence that the hiring of undocumented immigrants was not a one-time oversight but that this was done methodically and with a deliberate violation of the law.

Nobody is above the law, including the President of the United States and his company. We respectfully ask that you conduct a thorough federal investigation into these dubious employment practices by the Trump Organization and also conduct an investigation into the apparent failure of the Department of Homeland Security to initiate an investigation into the Trump Organization

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important request. If you have any further questions, please contact CHC Executive Director Alma Acosta at <a href="mailto:alma.acosta@mail.house.gov">alma.acosta@mail.house.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

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